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February 15, 2012

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COMMISSION
CLERK

Mr. Larry Harris
Office of General Counsel
Florida Public Service Commission
Room 390L – Gerald L. Gunter Bldg.
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850


Re: Petition for approval of post-interconnection study charges to interconnection customer-owned renewable generation by Tampa Electric Company;
FPSC Docket No. 120032-EQ

Dear Mr. Harris:

Enclosed are Tampa Electric's follow-up responses to a couple of questions raised by Staff in yesterday's informal meeting. Please let me now if you have further questions.

Thank you for putting the meeting together.

Sincerely,


(pp)

James D. Beasley

JDB/pp
Enclosures

cc: Ann Cole (w/encls.) ✓
Paula Brown (w/encls.)
Bill Ashburn (w/encls.)

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Pat Pottle

From: Ashburn, Bill R. [wrashburn@tecoenergy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:46 AM
To: Jim Beasley
Cc: Gerardo, Richard A.; Aubuchon, Shelly A.; Benton, Barbara J.; Kieninger, Greg F.
Subject: Answers to some of the unanswered questions posed by PSC Staff today

There were a couple of questions raised by Staff during the informal meeting that we indicated that we would research, and here is the results of that inquiry:

1. Does the customer always own the switching at the interconnect?

A. In the typical relay service installation, Tampa Electric Company owns the relay switchgear that performs the switching between the preferred and alternate circuits supplying the site, and one (1) run of cable connects the relay switchgear to the customer's service equipment. Some customer's (in this case the VA Hospital) want the additional redundancy of a separate cable run into their service equipment for the preferred and alternate circuits. The switching between the preferred and alternate circuits must be performed by the customer-owned relay switchgear in this type of installation and so that switchgear is owned by the customer.

2. Is the VA or SunPower getting any rebates for their project?

A. They are not getting any rebates from Tampa Electric, and have not sought any. They would not get any from the federal government, most such benefits are offered in the manner of tax credits which would have no value to the VA, and they are probably not eligible to apply for them anyway. To our knowledge, they have not sought and are not getting any state created rebates or tax credits.

3. Is the project being built to satisfy the military's requirement to supply renewable generation?

A. Project was funded by the VA National Energy Business Center. The VA project is part of a plan set in 2005 to reduce the national agency's energy footprint by 30 percent over 10 years, said Jeffrey Karsonovich, chief of facilities management service at Haley. The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded nearly \$78 million in contracts to build solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in support of ongoing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced. "With these investments in clean energy and other renewable energy projects for our medical centers and clinics, we are marching forward with the President's initiative to 'green' the Federal government," VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/article1214905.ece>

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/docs/Solar%20Panel%20NATIONAL%20NR.pdf>

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Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com

February 10, 2012

James A. Haley Veterans Hospital will add soon solar power with \$20 million project

Elisabeth Parker, Times Staff Writer

A \$20 million project to put the panels over parking lots is slated to finish in July.

TAMPA - A \$20 million project under way will soon make the James A. Haley VA Medical Center the largest producer of solar energy in Hillsborough.

The hospital is building a canopy of solar panels over 4 acres of parking lots, hoping to generate 3.6 megawatts of electricity - enough to supply 10 percent of the hospital's power.

The project is in its preliminary stages. Workers were pouring concrete into 18-foot-deep holes in two parking lots last week. The concrete will stabilize the steel columns that will hold the panels.

Workers will start installing the panels in about a month, according to plans that aim to complete the project by the end of July.

The solar panels, funded through the VA National Energy Business Center, won't affect the medical center's operating budget, other than oversight of the construction, administrators said.

The financial payoff won't come soon, however. It will take 45 years to recoup the cost of the panels, according to Rick Durabb, Haley's energy engineer.

"While it will likely take many years to recover our financial investment in these projects, the multitude of benefits that will be realized through clean energy and other renewable energy projects are most important, said Haley spokeswoman Carolyn Clark. "These benefits include reducing greenhouse gas emissions to improving the quality of the air we breathe. This initiative is good for veterans and good for our environment."

The project is one of more than a dozen at sites for VA hospitals, clinics and national cemeteries aiming to make the government agency "green."

Solar panels have already been installed on rooftops at medical centers in Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Other solar projects are under construction at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in Pinellas County and at the Viera Outpatient Clinic in Brevard County.

Solar energy has steadily increased as a source of power and today accounts for about 1 percent of the country's power, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

As is the case with Haley, parking lots are becoming a hot spot for solar power across the country. The wide-open outdoor spaces typically cover a large footprint. As a bonus, panels shade cars.

Last year, the NFL's Washington Redskins topped more than 800 parking spaces at its FedEx Field in Maryland. Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden also covered nearly 4 acres of parking lot with solar panels at a cost of only \$11 million.

In the past several years, the number of solar customers tapping into Tampa Electric's grid has increased. The company serves all of Hillsborough County, and parts of Pasco, Polk and Pinellas counties. In 2009, it added 50 customers to the grid. In 2010, 55 more tapped in and in 2011, 39 started. The company currently counts 172 such customers. Of those, 140 are residential and 32 commercial, including the largest solar panel system, which belongs to the Tampa Housing Authority's J L Young Apartments. That system is one-tenth the size of the Haley project.

Most mount the photovoltaic cells, more commonly known as solar panels, to rooftops.

Tampa Electric supplies customers with a bidirectional meter, which measures energy collected from sunshine and energy used from burning fossil fuels. Excess solar energy is fed back into the company's grid. Customers get a credit instead of their monthly bill if their panels feed more energy into the grid than they use, but no users have yet been able to rely completely on solar power.

The VA project is part of a plan set in 2005 to reduce the national agency's energy footprint by 30 percent over 10 years, said Jeffrey Karsonovich, chief of facilities management service at Haley.

"This will go a long way toward achieving that goal," he said.

Elisabeth Parker can be reached at eparker@tampabay.com or (813) 226-3431.

Tampa Bay Times



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**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

**Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations**

**Washington, DC 20420
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2010

VA Funds Solar Energy Projects at 12 Hospitals, Clinics, Cemeteries *Solar Panels to Reduce Electricity Bills*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded nearly \$78 million in contracts to build solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in support of ongoing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced.

“With these investments in clean energy and other renewable energy projects for our medical centers and clinics, we are marching forward with the President’s initiative to ‘green’ the Federal government,” VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said. “The benefits of using solar power are significant, from our reduced utility bills to the quality of the air we breathe. This initiative is good for Veterans and good for our environment,” Shinseki said.

The VA will install, by fall 2011, the solar PV systems at hospitals, clinics and national cemeteries in a dozen particularly sunny locations, from Florida to California. The systems, in some cases, will produce up to 100 percent of the facility’s annual electricity usage. VA selected the sites based on feasibility studies that determined the most ideal locations to invest in on-site renewable energy projects.

VA’s goal is to increase renewable energy consumption to 15 percent of annual electricity usage by 2013. The installation of these 12 solar PV systems will help VA meet that goal.

Solar PV stations are slated for Salt Lake City; Miami; West Los Angeles; San Diego; Prescott, Ariz.; Tampa and Viera, Fla.; and in Dixon, Martinez, Menlo Park, Monterey, and Sepulveda, Calif.

VA had previously awarded solar PV systems at facilities in Phoenix; Albuquerque, N.M.; Tucson, Ariz.; Dublin, Ga.; San Juan, P.R.; Calverton, N.Y.; Santa Nella, Calif.; and Riverside, Calif.

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